



#627 – October 2024



JUG

Publication of the
Northern California
Contest Club

NCCC

**NCCC – 54 years
of contesting
excellence**

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NCCC MEETING

<https://nccc.cc/meetings.html>

October Meeting

@

Annual BBQ – 20 Oct 2024

**N6RO
5480 Sellers Ave
Oakley, CA**

President's Report

David West, KO6M



As I type this, CQP is starting. This year I am missing it because I planned a vacation without thinking of the logistics of trying to go on said vacation AND operate for CQP. My lesson? Always check the calendar and add a couple days to things. You never know what's going to come up. With that said, I hope you all did amazing work. Let me change that... I *know* you all did amazing work. Maybe you got on the air from the home shack and you called CQ CQP until you couldn't take it anymore. Or perhaps you even schlepped a shack to the wilderness with some friends and camped while operating. How ever you operated, I bet you had fun. That's what matters.

Thank you to Dean and the rest of his CQP team for putting on an amazing QSO Party. Still the best out there. I'll say it on my death bead: better than 95% of the other contests out there. Why? Simple: the CQP group not only has their act in top gear but finally everybody wants to talk to California and it isn't about politics. 9 Seriously though, thank you to all that are involved!

Next up: NCCC BBQ! Where, you ask? At N6RO's station in Oakley. (See various announcements in this issue)

When, you mumble? October 20th 11-3 or 4 (you know how parties can go) How do I tell you I'm going? RSVP at:

<https://www.memberplanet.com/events/ncccckb/ncccfamilybbq24>



About NCCC

Officers and Directors, 2023-2024 Contest Season

President: David West, [K06M](#)
Vice-President/Contest Chairman: Chris Tate, [N6WM](#)
Secretary: Greg Alameda, [KK6PXT](#)
Treasurer: Nian Li, [WU6P](#)
Past President: David Jaffe, WD6T
Director: Jim Brown, [K9YC](#)
Director: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
Director: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Volunteers

Charter Member: Rusty Epps, [W6OAT](#)
Awards Chair: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)
California QSO Party Chair: Dean Wood, [N6DE](#)
QSL Mgr [[K6ZM](#)]: **vacant**
QSL Mgr [[K6CQP/N6CQP/W6CQP](#)]: Dean Wood, N6DE
NAQP Teams: **vacant**
NA CW Sprint Teams: Bob Vallio, [W6RGG](#)
NCCC Email Reflector Admin: Phil Verinsky, [W6PK](#)
Worked All CA Counties Award: Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#)
Photographer: Bob Wilson, N6TV

NCCC Thursday Night Contesting

NCCC Sprint: Tom Hutton, [N3ZZ](#)
NS CW Ladder: Bill Haddon, [N6ZFO](#)
NS RTTY Sprint/Ladder: Ed Radlo, [AJ6V](#)

Communications

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)
Webinars: Bill Fehring, [W9KKN](#)
Membership: Gary Johnson, [NA6O](#)/Ian Parker, [W6TCP](#)

JUG Editor

Fred Jensen, [K6DGW](#): k6dgwnv@gmail.com
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Cell: 530.210.0778

Approx total of active NCCC members: 150

Logs submitted for CQWW RTTY club competition: 37

Less than 10% were full efforts based on rumer postings.

Some soul searching as a club to do ahead of ARRL 10m, our next full-bore club effort? I think that would be a good idea.

What it takes to win ARRL(and also CQ contests) unlimited club competitions

Simply put: Logs, Logs, Logs! With a major dose of a commitment to making those logs substantial. Unlike its Medium and Small ARRL club competitions siblings that have caps on submitted logs [10 for small and 50 or less for medium], every submitted log counts in Unlimited.

How much? \$35 for a NCCC Catered BBQ. We are doing the cooking this year. Feel free to bring sides or desserts to share! (There will be a Vegetarian option). I hope to see you there!

We do need presentations in the coming months. Do you want to teach us about your RTTY operations? How about CW Methods? 2BSIQ? A recent discovery you made in ham radio? Let me know. Without your participation we can't have great programs.

VPCC Report

Chris Tate, N6WM



Greetings KBers.

I want take this OP-ED opportunity to thank all the KBers that took time energy and made the commitment to operate and turn in logs for the CQWW RTTY contest. Here is a little

post-mortem:

A few more turned in logs that were willing to make an advance commitment, resulting in a total of 38 logs submitted, One log was from an associate member so 37 competitive logs.

Our expedition teams were limited this year, and we thank AD6E for being the real sole entrant in this category as KH6TU. P4 was absent this year, and Ed's P49X FB log was missed. Some data points:



We can talk until we are blue in the face about different motivating factors, flogging, reminders, hand holding, aging ham population etc, but the bottom line is we need a collective WILL TO WIN in order to be competitive in the Unlimited arena. We need solid commitment from our 150 active members to commit to the effort! We will need to turn in 100 logs to be even remotely competitive in sweepstakes for example. We are going to need a LOT more than 37 logs to repeat our ARRL 10m contest unlimited club win, and those logs will need to be substantial, and require some real effort ... from you, the club member. When we have that collective WILL TO WIN, its palpable. We can all feel it. Its amazing. Its Magic.

Are we still a competitive club in unlimited category?

The answer to this question, is yes, but based on performance over the last couple of years not on every contest we would like. For the NCCC, the contest for which our reputation and establishment was based, ARRL Sweepstakes is the Holy Grail. Statistically, Sweepstakes would be a very difficult effort to win with our current active club member list, and participation level. I would welcome a volunteer or two who could do a study on just what it would take to get us competitive as a club in the Sweepstakes arena, 15 years is a long dry spell. As far as our next effort, the ARRL 10M contest, we need those 51 commitments now. So mark your calendars.

Are we competitive as individual radiosport operators?

Although completely unscientific, it's my opinion that the effort levels of NCCC membership have been steadily contracting for years. Once again there are a lot of reasons for this. Aging population finding that 30-48hours BIC is too hard. New entry categories that make partial efforts awardable. Busy lifestyles and family lives that make part time contesting the only contesting many "think that" they can do. There are only a handful of full bore competitive radio sport operators currently submitting logs for NCCC. Unfortunately this influx of more noncompetitive logs requires many more in number to reach critical mass. Real motivated contesters during our SS heyday would max out two stations with two different calls often exceeding a single full time effort worth of log!

Let me pose this problem in a different light. If the NCCC were a football team, would 80% of the players leave the game early or play just part of it to meet other obligations and commitments? That's not competitive football.. and the same goes for Radiosport team competition.

So why are we as a competitive Radiosport club trending this direction??

In Summary

To coin the book title, Radiosport is a contact sport. Club competition is a TEAM contact sport. We cannot win without sacrifice and effort. Part time contesting is not competitive, and part time contesting is not how we will win competitive club competitions. We need committed operators willing to go the extra mile, to put in their 110% for the glory of the TEAM. And we need those commitments in numbers that will allow us to take on our competition, all of which are from areas that are more densely populated, and have larger numbers. We are the underdog in these competitions, and it takes special magic and serious commitment to meet that challenge!

Either that or we collectively change our focus to more of a social organization. I think that would be disappointing to me personally and the others who still take their contest efforts and club





contributions very seriously.

Please share your thoughts with me! How can we regain the spark that allows the NCCC to reach a competitive level? How can we motivate people to increase their effort levels beyond part time to “accommodate other weekend activities or even operating events”? Should we convert the NCCC into a social club with few seriously competitive members? And finally ask yourself what you expect from membership of the NCCC? Do you want to be part of something bigger than just you? Do you expect that part time efforts will make us competitive overall? And are your expectations reasonable and do they make sense?

These questions are all presented as a “soul searching” exercise. In the mean time, We have plenty of notice for our next CLUB FOCUS EFFORT – the ARRL 10 m contest. Prepare for the entire weekend. Mark your calendars. Tell your friends. Set your families expectations. 51 plus logs. 1 contest. 1 weekend. Full throttle.

73 and seeya next time

Chris

SAVE	NCCC BBQ @N6RO
OCTOBER 20 2024	THE
DATE	📍 5480 Sellers Ave, Oakley, CA



Get Ready For ARRL CW Sweepstakes with MorseRunner! Jim, K6OK



As announced in ARRL Contest Update, a new version of MorseRunner Community Edition (MRCE), v.1.85, has been released. MorseRunner CE is a Windows contest simulator program that allows you to practice running stations. With this new version it adds ARRL Sweepstakes to the growing list of contests that MRCE supports.

In addition to ARRL Sweepstakes, MRCE continues to support practicing for CQ WW, CQ WPX, Field Day, NAQP, IARU HF, CWT, K1USN Slow Speed, and two JA contests. It also simulates participation in HST events.

When running a simulation, the user can set the CW speed, the range of speeds the callers reply with, the size of the pileups, as well as band conditions like QRN, QSB and auroral flutter. Pileups can even be simulated to include lids and QRM'ers.

See a screenshot of the program at right. I have intentionally busted a call sign and an exchange to highlight one of the recent improvements, which is showing your errors in red along with what the calling station actually sent you.

For the last year or so I have been one of the volunteer contributors to the development team so I'm excited about this release. MorseRunner was originally developed by Alex VE3NEA and a few years ago he graciously released the source code to the public domain. Mike W7SST took the initiative to improve on Alex's program as an open source project on GitHub. He has done a great job leading the development team for many improvements in the MorseRunner program.

UTC	Call	Nr	Pr	Chk	Sect	Corrections	Wpm
00:00:48	K0KU	80	M	52	KS		28
00:01:19	N6NM	61	A	07	EB		28
00:02:07	W9QV	63	B	72	WI	W9YV	28
00:02:51	W7AH	24	B	59	AZ	249	28
00:03:36	KB0V	462	B	73	IL		28

MRCE 1.85 can be downloaded at: <https://tinyurl.com/msjsh53p>

The full public MRCE repository is at: <https://github.com/w7sst/MorseRunner>



THE LUMBER YARD

Awards and Kudos for NCCC and Members





Tube of the Month

Norm Wilson, N6JV

Visit the Tube Museum at n6jv.com

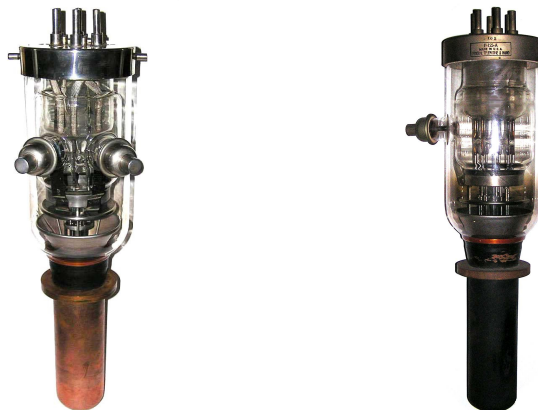
F-124A and F-125A



In 1909, Federal Telegraph Company (FTC) reorganized in Palo Alto, California after acquiring the Poulsen Wireless Company. They were trying to develop very high-power telegraph transmitting systems using the Poulsen Arc technology with the U.S. Navy as a major client. By the start of WWII, much of the radio equipment used by the Navy was Federal Telegraph. The early operations of Federal Telegraph have been noted as the start of what would become Silicon Valley.

The production of transmitting vacuum tubes started after WWI with an association with Lee de Forest to produce [oscillions](#). In the 1930s, most of the tube types they made were copies of tubes developed by other manufacturers especially Western Electric and RCA. In the 1940s, new designs were developed under a new name Federal Telephone and Radio (FTR). Two of the first were the 40 KW dissipation, water cooled, [F-124A](#) and [F-125A](#) triodes. The obvious difference between the two tubes was that the F-124A had two grid connections and grids. The F-124A had a mu of 40.5 and the F-125A had a mu of 4.75. The F-124A was designed to be a power amplifier and the F-125A was intended to be a modulator. The second grid connection on the F-124A was used to provide a terminal for the large, wide spaced neutralization capacitor. The dimensions of the tubes were the same with a length of 25.75 inches. Both tubes used the same [water jacket](#) that was also made by FTR. The filament for each tube was 27.2 volts at about 200 amps. The current was divided between 6 filament strands. The strands could be configured to operate on DC, single phase AC, 3 phase AC or 6 phase AC. Single phase operation extended tube life and limited the generation of hum. Maximum plate rating for the F-124A is 20,000 volts at 7 amps in class C as an amplifier. The F-125A when operated as a modulator in class B, is rated at a maximum of 15,000 volts at 10 amps on the plate.

The two tubes were intended to be used together in 50 KW AM broadcast stations. I bought the F-124A on the internet while sitting in a bar in La Paz, Baja California, Mexico before an XF2K IOTA operation. It looked so good.





Antenna of the Month

Gary, NA6O

Inverted L

Long wavelengths mean long antennas, and when you're trying to put up something for 80 or 160 meters, you can quickly run out of real estate and altitude. A popular and effective solution is the inverted L. It's simply a vertical with the top bent over and running roughly horizontally. The vertical part does most of the work since high current is present nearer the base. The horizontal part can be thought of as more of a loading or matching device if it doesn't dominate the overall length. Unless you have a *very* tall tower to support a high dipole, a vertical antenna of some sort will typically be your best bet for DX performance on these low bands.

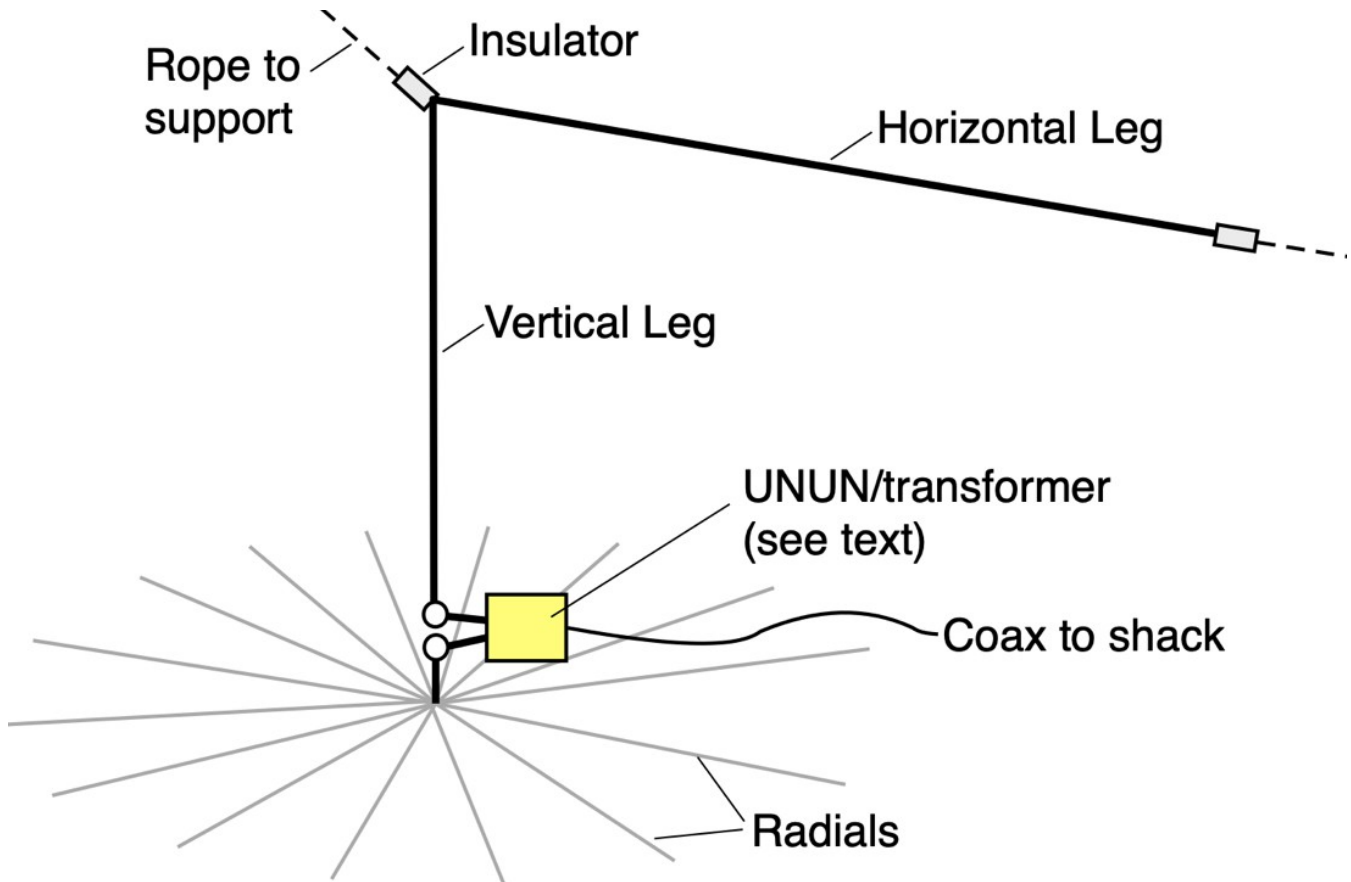


Figure 1. Typical inverted L construction.

Like any vertical (monopole), this antenna requires a ground radial system. It can consist of a large number of radials on or slightly under the ground, or a modest number of elevated radials. For ground radials, generally more is better; 32 is a good target. One thing about them is that they are non-resonant so length is not very critical. Elevated radials *are* resonant and will directly affect antenna tuning, but you can get by with just a few.



For best performance, elevated radials should be up about 8 feet on 80 m and almost twice that on 160 m. See the *ARRL Antenna Handbook* for in-depth advice on design trade-offs for any kind of radial system.

Our reference antenna is a wire vertical, 66 ft tall and with 32 shallow-buried radials 45 ft long. The inverted Ls use the same radial system. I varied the length of the vertical portion of the L, choosing 20 and 30 ft for comparison. The remainder of the wire ran horizontally, 46 and 38 ft, respectively.

Figure 2 compares the SWR. A properly-installed vertical ends up around 42 ohms at resonance, a good match to our regular coax. Inverted L antennas are always a lower impedance as are all shortened verticals. In this case it's usually around 20 ohms, and that's what my simulation shows. The shorter the vertical segment, the lower the impedance. For a better match, some guys add a transformer or some other matching network at the feedpoint. Note: You should always place a common-mode choke at the feedpoint of any of these antennas. (In this case, it's sometimes called an UNUN for unbalanced to unbalanced, but really, it's just a choke.) That will prevent the outside of your coax from becoming another radial with unknown properties.

A good radial system is extremely important. If it's inadequate, there will be excessive loss due to current flowing through the lossy Earth rather than copper wires. Curiously, this loss can actually *improve* your SWR! That's because the added loss appears in series with the antenna's radiation resistance. If your inverted L looks like 50 ohms, you probably have upwards of 25 ohms of loss in your radial system and literally half your power is being dissipated there. So don't be fooled: *SWR is not a direct indicator of antenna performance.*

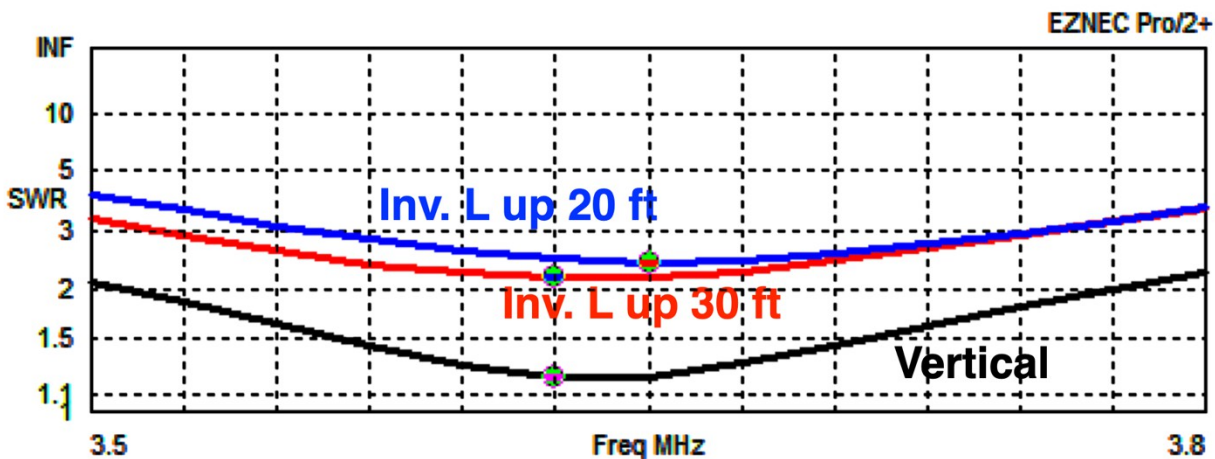


Figure 2. SWR comparison over average ground conditions. An inverted L at resonance is typically around 20 ohms with a good radial system.

Looking at the pattern in azimuth, it's going to be omnidirectional with a slight bias in the pattern away from the horizontal wire's direction. For the 20 ft vertical case, it's about 3 dB. The better news is that the elevation pattern (Fig. 3) is very good compared to the baseline vertical with excellent low-angle radiation. "Forward" gain is nearly identical, with only the small decrease off the back. Also the horizontal wire gives you some radiation straight up which can be useful for shorter-distance QSOs.



Results - The Thirty-Eighth NCCC Sprint Ladder Competition “Four of Seven Weeks” 2024 Aug 30 – Oct 11

Bill Haddon, N6ZFO
Director, NCCC Thursday Night Contesting

The thirty-eighth NCCC Sprint Ladder competition was exciting, well attended and eventful.

We have now had our thousandth NCCC Sprint Session.

There was record high participation with an average of more than 45 stations per week

An important first: Two YL's entered the contest, both appearing in four or more of the seven weeks.

Two major hurricane disasters, Helene in Asheville NC and Milton in central Florida did not affect any NS regulars

The final session, week seven, co-occurred with a severe G4 Geomagnetic storm, the first in the history of the contest and providing a fascinating propagation experience.

Scores. Improved propagation saw multiple individual week scores exceeding 3,000 points: K7SV, 3,233 (Wk 2); W9RE, 3,498 (Wk 2); Greg, NA8V, 3186 (Wk 2); K7SS, 3,213 (Wk 1), 3,380 (Wk 2), 3,468 (Wk 3) and 3,283 (Wk 6). Is a 4,000-point score possible? Mike, W9RE's Week 2 score of 3498, highest in NSL 38, was achieved with 66 Q's and 53 multipliers. Five more QSO's and four additional multipliers would give score of 4,047, thus keeping the about the same ratio of multipliers to QSO's in our five-band thirty minute contest structure.

Top-scoring ops in the five divisions of the contest were the usual suspects, with no surprises or close races occurring: Atlantic Division: **K7SV**, Lar with 11,577 points. Howie, N4AF in second place with 10,170 points. East Central Division: Mike, **W9RE**, 11,562 points, with Greg, NA8V, fairly close behind at 10,524. In the NCCC: Our usual winner, Dave, WD6T, using the N6RO superstation, outscored Bill, N6ZFO by almost 2,000 points with a 9,398 total. West Central Division: As usual, Art, KZ5D with 9,436 total points by a wide margin over N0AT. West Division: Of course, it's Danny, K7SS with 13,344 total points in the contest, the highest overall score.

Participation. In total, seventy stations participated, representing 69 different ops (N0AC appeared with two separate calls, N0AC and WI0WA). Participation was over forty every week, ranging from fifty in the week before the NCJ CW Sprint and a low of 41 in the last week, despite the severe geomagnetic storm co-occurring.

We were delighted, honored and honestly surprised to have our first YL's in the contest, Cathy, WA4CMG, and Amanda, KY4GS. Both are outstanding, committed and multi-talented contesting enthusiasts, and both are FOC members. I'm setting a goal now of two or three additional YL's and the establishment of a YL division for the contest for Ladder 39. Please join me in welcoming both to the NS and NS Ladder. Contrary to what you might think, Amanda is NOT a girl scout from Kentucky. In fact she was raised on a farm in South Carolina, and now lives there with her OM, who is, I believe, a public defender in southern South Carolina. Importantly, the SC multiplier is back after the very sad loss of W4OC, who provided us with SC for many years.

I won't try to mention all our new participants, except to mention VE6RST, who provides the, for us, novel AB section multiplier. Max finds his north QTH a bit challenging in NS. We of course hope he continues. And AJ,



NK4O continues to provide our Florida QSO regularly and I continue to be amazed by our 0.5 watt contribution from John, N6HI. At 23 dB down from the 100-watt competition, John has amazing talent for edging out QSO's.

Hurricanes. Tragically devastating hurricanes, Helene and Milton occurred during the ladder in the South, but fortunately did not adversely affect our NS crew. Perhaps the closest call to disaster, given both the hurricane and coincident multiple tornadoes in Florida would be AJ, NK4O. AJ was, fortunately spared, but the event certainly gives us pause to think about, and perhaps contribute to victims of the, possibly global warming-caused, weather events. In 1964 prior to graduate school at Purdue I lived through a magical summer in a small cabin a few miles east of Asheville, operating as K6OPI/4. My friends there were spared in the current disaster.

Week Seven – The G4 Geomagnetic Storm. A coronal mass ejection event (CME) occurred a few days prior to our concluding ladder session, and its arrival as a so-called Carrington storm coincided with the NS Week 7 session. The figure shows that the estimated Kp index from NOAA data reached the Kp=9 level during the NS.

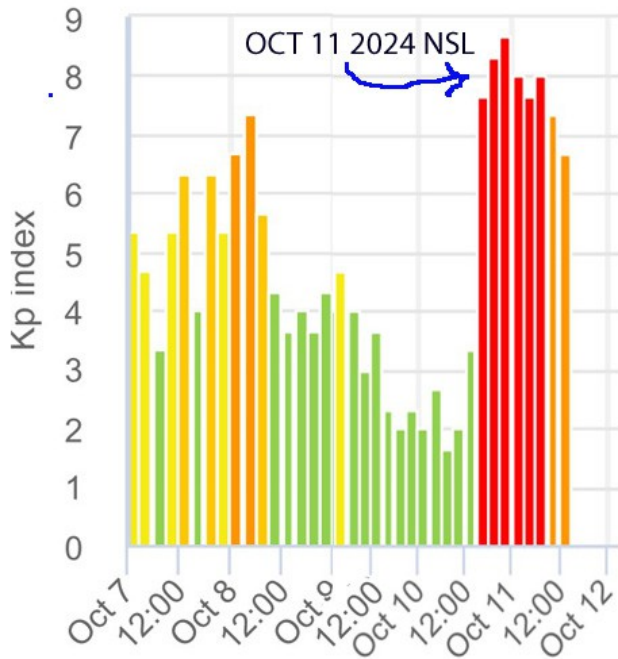


Fig 1. Kp Index for October 7-11, 2024, UTC.
A G4 severe geomagnetic storm occurred exactly during the week seven session of NS Ladder XXXVIII on Oct 11

In the results table below, look at the last column, which gives the ratio of the reported Wk. 7 score to the average score for the entire ladder as a percent. These are striking data: north latitude stations were, or course, most negatively affected – the scores of K7SS, N0AT, K8CN and VE6RST are examples, among many. Scores from some stations appeared to be un-affected – for example NCCC participants achieved an average of about 80 percent of their average scores. But look at the results for K4BAI, NK4O, and Dale, KG5U, whose scores may



Fig 2. Aurora Borealis recorded at QTH of Mike, VE9AA in Labrador, Canada during the October 11, 2024 NS Ladder, Week 7



have been higher than expected. On the other hand, Lar, K7SV in the mid-latitude state of VA, along with Bill, W2RQ, Tim, N3QE, and Al, W1FJ saw only a slight score reduction. To some extent, the small reductions they saw may just reflect the slightly lower participation (41 stations instead of the expected 45 or so).

One of the largest increased scores, as noted, was KG5U. Dale always has a good, readable signal in CA, but on Thursday it had outstanding strength... Max, VE6RST, complained of great difficulty, reflected in his score, but here in CA he, on 15 and 20m, was maybe 15 dB stronger than I've heard him previously. Ed, AI6O noted in his 3830scores.com report, that few CQ's were answered. Yet on 80m, amazingly, I worked Ed easily for the MO multiplier. The extreme fluttering on the signals was notable.

VE9AA provided a stunning photograph (Fig 2 above) of the auroral display in New Brunswick. Others commented on their local colorful skies; but here in N. Cal there was only a modest red glow around 0300 -- uninteresting compared to the spectacular May Northern Light display here. In any case, the Week 7 session was probably the most unusual in our twenty plus year history of the contest.

Thanks. As always, we thank Bruce WA7BNM for the 3830scores.com postings and N1SFE, at ARRL, for featuring the ladder in his ARRL weekly contest newsletter.

NS Ladder XXXVIII (38) Atlantic Division

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Average	High 4	Ave.Wk 7, % of Ave.
K7SV	LP		3233	1755	2668	2950	2726	2496	2638	11577	95
N4AF	LP	2268	2940	1440		2352	2610		2322	10170	
N3QE	LP	1748	2385	1548	2430	2226	1776	1960	2010	9001	98
W2RQ	LP	2009	1960	980	2340	1764	2050	1540	1806	8359	85
K3MM	LP	1862	1800	1620	2385	2050			1943	8097	
K4BAI	LP	806	960	1540	945	1015		1620	1147	5135	141
W1FJ	LP	1333	1585	414		1178		1020	1106	5116	92
W1UJ	LP	667	1280	713	720	972	1271		937	4243	
NK4O	LP			285	832	546	1200	1178	808	3756	146
K8CN	LP		1368				1147	399	971	2914	41
AJ1DM	LP	396	780	120			550		461	1846	
KY4GS	LP		195	169	210	156		72	160	730	45
K9DX	LP	540							540	540	
N4NTO	LP							48	48	48	
K4PQC	QRP				15	30			22	45	



NS Ladder XXXVIII (38) East Central Division

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Average	High 4	% of Ave.
W9RE	LP	2806	3498		2173	2820		2438	2747	11562	89
NA8V	LP	2058	3186	1739	1872	2430	2850	1221	2193	10524	56
N8EA	LP		2145	1386	2009	2184	2800		2104	9138	
W8WTS	LP	1496	2332	1692			2193	1419	1826	7713	78
KW8N	LP	2142	1786	1147	1591	2009		1015	1615	7528	63
VE3YT	LP	1548	2028	504	1360	1728	2200	594	1423	7504	42
K8MR	LP	1872	1862	70		1470	2244	1209	1454	7448	83
W1NN	LP		1200	1092	1920	2332	1927	918	1564	7379	59
K9BGL	LP	1786	1850	1656	1505	1680	2040	1287	1686	7356	76
K1GU	LP	1200	1728	1044	1400		1302	690	1227	5630	56
W4NZ	LP		1216	1312	1248			980	1189	4756	82
N4DW	LP	1160	1435	780	1152	924	725	154	904	4671	17
N7ZZ	LP	1064	1008			792	1260	414	907	4124	46
N4GO	LP	374	238	315	486	504			383	1679	
WQ5L	LP						1147		1147	1147	
K4FN	LP		1140						1140	1140	
N9UNX	LP					378	440		409	818	
NF8M	LP	644						168	406	812	41
KY0Q	LP				408		350		379	758	
W4CMG	LP	99	130	120			156	168	134	574	125
AA9RK	LP				156		418		287	574	
N9TTK	LP							9	9	9	
K9NW	LP						1		1	1	
KC3SJ	LP				1				1	1	

NS Ladder XXXVIII NCCC Division

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Average	High 4	% of Ave.
WD6T	LP	2726		1836			2736	2100	2349	9398	89
N6ZFO	LP	1584	1656			2132	2120	1517	1801	7492	84
AJ6V	LP	1419	1665		1591	1764	1833	1152	1570	6853	73
N6TTV	LP	891	896	725	1326	858	891	725	901	4004	80
KM9R	LP	884	999	660	800	594	1036	418	770	3719	54
K6NV	LP	810	891		450	806	840		759	3347	



NS Ladder XXXVIII West Central Division

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Average	High 4	% of Ave.
KZ5D	LP	1974	2392	2464	2150	1968	2430	1927	2186	9436	88
N0AT	LP		2132	1160	1140	1710	1833	81	1342	6835	6
W0BH	LP	1254	1512	1548			1968		1570	6282	
K0VBU	LP	986	1428	1073	1295		1591	775	1191	5387	65
K0AD	LP	1102	1540	980		1188			1202	4810	
KG5U	LP	775	616	1280	525		1147	1496	973	4698	154
AI6O	LP	952	972	980	825	1292		728	958	4196	76
K0TG	LP		783	432	728	255	864		612	2807	
WI0WA	LP			378	506		696		526	1580	
WA0I	LP			384		312	644		446	1340	
N0AC	LP	475				504		81	353	1060	23
N3ZZ	LP				775				775	775	
KE0TT	LP							224	224	224	

NS Ladder XXXVIII West Division

Call	Class	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Average	High 4	% of Ave.
K7SS	LP	3213	3380	2255	2420	3468	3283	49	2581	13344	2
N5ZO	LP	2508	2491	2173	1794	2184	672		1970	9356	
K4XU	LP	2940		1850		2080			2290	6870	
AA7V	LP					1739	1610	1287	1545	4636	83
KI7Y	LP	925	924		800	1240	864	54	801	3953	7
VE6RST	LP	667	832	182	1044	1240	816	32	687	3932	5
NN7SS	QRP		638	456	972	1036			775	3102	
WJ9B	LP		1776	1271					1523	3047	
WU8T	LP	336	340	810	546		713	72	469	2409	15
N7VS	LP		320			399	391		370	1110	
N0AC	LP		638						638	638	
N6HI	QRP	88	80	54	63	234	140		109	542	



Editor Notes




By the time you read this, another CQP will be in the books. It's difficult from NE Nevada with 100 W and an HOA-approved antenna, but I did manage to make a few Q's in limited time.

Our nearest star has had a serious case of the grumpies so far this month, Kp made it to 8.9 [out of 9.0] for part of the 9th and 10th with the accompanying auroras well to the south (See N6ZFO's NSL38 report above). It also came with some severe auroral flutter, even on 80 but the SFI was very high too, in the low 200's. So propagation tended to be very good too ... just send slower. We need to enjoy it now of course, it won't last forever.

Where to from Here?

Our VP/CC column this month highlights an inescapable truth ... time moves inexorably ... at 1 year/year. I recall the plan put forward by Rusty, W6OAT, a surefire method to win the SS Gavel. He called it “Highly Motivated Operators,” and it included taking advantage of a small quirk in the SS Rules [Rusty is a lawyer]. Operators forego a personal win for the good of the Club by operating half of the CW and SSB contests from one station with their call, and then trade stations with someone else and operate the remaining half with a new call and transmitter as fresh meat. Recall that in SS, you can work a given station once ... regardless of band ... so a new call on Sunday creates a feeding frenzy and the sum of all those scores blew our east coast rivals away.

Not only did we win the gavel handily, we also threw them a puzzle as to how we did it. They figured that out eventually, but then discovered that in addition to radio, the scheme required a great deal of planning, logistics, and most of all ... a bunch of HMO's. They eventually did perfect the scheme but it was heady times. Nor are all those times in the past:



Preliminary Results: North American Sprint CW – September 2024 – Boring Amateur Radio Club

(This is the preliminary results which are based on the first complete output from log checking and includes the winners in all the major categories and overlays. After the preliminary results are published, a full version of the results will follow with expanded coverage and any corrections to the preliminary scores. The goal of preliminary results is to give a full picture of the submitted scores with all logs included as quickly as possible, recognizing that additional analysis and review might discover necessary changes. - Editor)

Category Winners		
High Power	Andy Blank, N2NT	15,400
Low Power	Randy Martin, KØEU	12,690
QRP	Al Rousseau, W1FJ	7,011
12 Band Changes or Less	Ralph Bowen, NSRZ	13,754
Top Golden Log (no errors)	Mike Wetzel, W9RE	319 QSOs
Top Team	Northern California Contest Club	63,694

Hard to believe that it was twenty or so years ago. And, we are all twenty some years older too. We have a number of members who are not very active in contests and we need additional new younger members.¹ I think Chris' message is clear ... we need the new younger members many of whom may lurk in the NCCC “not very active” membership, and new ways to challenge ourselves. This issue reports results for NSL38, an idea from N6ZFO that has seen continuing support for 20+ years. What else can we do to re-ignite that HMO spirit? All ideas, suggestions, and actions, will be welcomed.

¹ Not necessarily kids, although they're certainly welcome. We need a new crop of HMO's any age will do.



NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, please fill out an application for membership, which will be read and voted upon at our monthly meeting. To join, you must reside within club territory which is defined as everything in California north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon state line, and part of northwestern Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles north of Auburn on Highway 49).

Life Memberships

Life memberships are \$250.00 Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com. Members who have reached 80 years of age have and been an NCCC member for 20 or more years are eligible for Honorary Life Membership ("80/20 Rule"). Contact secretary.nccc@gmail.com

JUG Articles Wanted!

Your help allows us to produce a quality newsletter. Please consider submitting an article! The editor welcomes any and all relevant articles for inclusion in the JUG. The preferred format is plain, unformatted ASCII text, MS Word (.doc/.docx) are acceptable. Indicate the insertion point and title of diagrams and pictures in the text and attach photos/diagrams separately. Pictures should be as high a resolution as available. Please do not spend time formatting your submittal, the publication templates will re-format everything. Send your material to k6dgwnv@gmail.com indicating "JUG Submittal" in the subject.

Northern California Contest Club Reflector—Guidelines

The NCCC email reflector is devoted to the discussion of contesting. Topics include contests, station building, dxpeditions, technical questions, contesting questions, amateur radio equipment wants/sales, score posting, amateur radio meetings/ conventions, and membership achievements. Postings may not include personal attacks, politics, or off-subject posts. Such postings will be considered a violation of the Guidelines

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If you have questions, contact the NCCC secretary at: secretary.nccc@gmail.com



Northern California Contest Club

[NCCC Lands' End Store](#)

We are pleased to announce that the new NCCC Land's End store is online! You can choose from an array of shirts, jackets, and hats and apply your choice of custom-embroidered NCCC logos: A plain one, or one that also says Fifty Years. And, you can personalize your item by adding your name and/or call sign. The store is open 24/7 and items are shipped directly to you. No more waiting for everyone else to make up their minds on a group purchase.

<https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/> or from the NCCC website: <http://nccc.ccc/members/lestore.html>

Thanks to W6TCP for helping to set this up. Instructions for purchases from Lands' End NCCC Store

1. Go to <https://business.landsend.com/store/nccc/>
2. Click on Men's or Women's link, then choose item(s)
3. Pick color, inter quantity of each size you want to order.
4. Click Apply Logos and Personalizations. This will display the logo choices. Try them out. It will show you what they look like on your chosen fabric color.
5. Select a location for logo (left side, ride side, back, etc)
6. Click Apply Logo.
7. Optionally, click Add Personalization to add your name or call sign (\$8.00, 10 character limit)
8. Click Add to Bag and Continue Shopping or.



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Single or dual panadapter, plus a high-resolution tuning aid

The main panadapter can be set up as single or dual. Separate from the main panadapter is our per-receiver *mini-pan* tuning aid, with a resampled bandwidth as narrow as +/- 1 kHz. You can turn it on by tapping either receiver's S-meter or by tapping on a signal of interest, then easily auto-spot or fine tune to the signal.

Comprehensive I/O, plus full remote control

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K4 KEY FEATURES

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Modular, upgradeable design

7" color screen with touch and mouse control

ATU with 10:1+ range, 3 antenna jacks

Up to 5 receive antenna sources

Full remote control via Ethernet



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FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver

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FT-70DR C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr

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